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Ministry of Advanced Education

PROVINCE INVESTS $9M IN RESEARCH COMPUTING NETWORK

VICTORIA – The Province is investing $9.3 million in Compute Canada, a cross-Canada high-performance computing network that will help researchers in a broad range of disciplines solve complex problems, Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell announced today.

"Compute Canada will help researchers across Canada work collaboratively on projects that involve large amounts of data, such as climate modelling, which are vital to the future of our province, our country and our world," said Coell. "As a result of this funding, talented and dedicated scientists at B.C.'s four research-intensive universities will be able to contribute further to leading-edge, international research."

High-performance computing – or HPC – allows for expanded and accelerated research into areas that involve processing large amounts of data. The provincial government funding brings the total value of the Compute Canada infrastructure to $158.8 million.

Compute Canada unites post-secondary high-performance computing organizations in Canada through seven regional partnerships, including WestGrid, which encompasses 14 institutions in the four western provinces. The seven regional HPC partnerships in Canada represent more than 50 institutions – including the University of B.C., Simon Fraser University, the University of Victoria and the University of Northern B.C. – and over a thousand university faculty members doing computational-based research.

"Our funding to Compute Canada will help open doors to discoveries and investigations that were out of our reach even a few years ago," Coell said. "It will also increase this province's reputation as a leader in high-technology research and industry, support training, and raise our knowledge-based economy to a whole new level by fostering an 'e-business' environment."

Since 2001, a total of 556 projects and almost $345 million in funding have been approved by the provincial government under the British Columbia Knowledge Development Fund. This funding has leveraged over $379 million from the Canada Foundation for Innovation and another $283 million from other non-provincial government sources, for a total investment in British Columbia's research infrastructure of over $1 billion.

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